



**PRESS RELEASE
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Alaska Military Youth Academy selected to test online science, technology, engineering and math course

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe program has been selected to participate in a pilot course that gives students an interactive way to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math.

The National Guard Youth Foundation STEM Pilot Program uses online instruction to hone in on the core skills of science, technology, engineering and math at a time when the job market has increasing demand on employees with these skills.

"This program will serve as a bridge builder between our current applied mathematics, science, integrated studies, and industrial science curriculum and course work to further advance cadet learning and education in STEM," said Bob Roses, director of the Alaska Military Youth Academy. "This gives our cadets more qualified, marketable skill sets for collegiate and vocational careers; we are preparing them right here in Alaska for the fastest growing global career field."

Fourteen ChalleNGe programs, to include the Alaska Military Youth Academy, applied and were selected to participate in the pilot program. Approximately 1,800 ChalleNGe program cadets will be take part in this education initiative.

"It is our mission to help these young men and women to find a pathway to success beyond their graduation day from ChalleNGe and to make sure they are ready to meet the growing demands of the workforce," said Louis A. Cabrera, National Guard Youth Foundation president. "This initiative will expose ChalleNGe participants – many for the first time – to opportunities in the STEM field and will open many doors for them down the road."

The pilot program's findings and results will enable the National Guard Youth Foundation to assess the ChalleNGe cadet's adaptability, interaction and success with online STEM course instruction. In addition, the National Guard Youth Foundation will determine the overall capabilities of the ChalleNGe programs to support online STEM courses, identify what IT assets are needed to field online STEM instruction, and determine staffing impacts and requirements.

This effort was initiated in coordination with and support of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Reserve Affairs office and National Guard Bureau.

The Alaska Military Youth Academy continues to help intervene in and reclaim the lives of youth and produce program graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline necessary to succeed as adults.

The pilot program will last through this current class phase, which ends Aug. 28 with graduation day from the Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe program. It is then expected to be offered to all ChalleNGe programs across the country.

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